



Drawing by Bonnie Acker/WIN

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William Tolbert, Jr. Tolbert was killed in the coup. And along with him, Doe and his colleagues brought an end to more than 130 years rule by what had been until earlier this year Liberia's only legal political party, the True Whig Party. More important, the coup brought an end to the domination of the country by a tiny elite composed of the descendants of freed American slaves who settled there starting in 1882. Along with giving Liberia a capital city named after an American president and a flag modeled after the American flag, the freed slaves brought to the West African coast a social system not all that different from the slave society they had escaped-- a system in which the Americo-Liberian elite, less than three percent of the population, controlled all the wealth and lorded it over the indigenous African population. In all of Liberia's 130 years as a "republic," Master Sergeant Doe is only the second indigenous African head of state. The first was assassinated. As recently as 1930, a League of Nations report indicted Liberian government officials, themselves the descendants of freed slaves, for employing forced labor and selling their own countrymen into servitude in Ghana and the Spanish settlement of Fernando Po.

So if the coup was unexpected and its leader previously unknown, the social tensions that lay behind it had long been evident. In fact, the coup took place just two days before the first anniversary of the "Easter Massacre" of 1979, in which those tensions exploded into a day of angry demonstrations and police violence that left more than 200 people dead and more than \$30 million worth of property in ruins. When Randy McLaughlin, a Black lawyer for the New York based Center for Constitutional Rights, visited the country a few months later, to investigate what had happened, he found widespread evidence of government repression aimed at preventing another uprising. He found even more widespread evidence of popular discontent. Among other places, he learned of a great deal of unrest within the ranks of the Liberian Army, unrest that finally boiled over on April 12.

"I had a very good sense of army dissatisfaction," McLaughlin told LNS. "All the enlisted men are in-

digenous people. All the officers are settlers (Americo-Liberians). And I heard a lot of stories about April 14 (the day of the Easter Massacre). The police repeatedly opened fire on demonstrators, but the army didn't. One man told me he was driving his car down a hill and some soldiers stopped him. They said he should drive very slowly as he went down the hill because the police had been shooting at cars a little while ago. And if it happened again, they said, they would wipe the police out.

"Someone else told me about seeing a crowd attacking a store that belonged to the Mesurado Group of Companies, which were owned by the Tolbert family and ran just about everything. A jeep full of soldiers drove by as they were sacking this one store. And the soldiers raised their hands in fists.

"Basically, the people and the soldiers are one and the same. The soldiers are living in shantytowns and many of them actually live right among other people."

Sharing the conditions of the people may have prepared people like Samuel Doe for staging a coup that would bring "jubilation in the streets," in the words of one Liberian in New York. But it did not necessarily prepare them for dealing with the complexities of governing the country.

"Basically, the soldiers are not that well-educated," McLaughlin pointed out, which is hardly surprising in a country where illiteracy tops 90 percent. But Doe has not appeared reluctant to pull into his government educated leaders who had opposed the Tolbert regime, such as Gabriel Baccus Matthews and Togba Nah Tipoteh. Tipoteh, chairman of the Movement for Justice in Africa (MOJA), and by many accounts the most popular political figure in the country, has been named Minister of Planning and Economics.

"That's the best position for him," McLaughlin said of Tipoteh, a university-educated economist whose popularity he measured by the fact that "everybody calls the kind of sandals he wears 'Tipotehs' and on the day of the massacre the police were arresting people who were wearing those sandals."

Certainly economic planning will be a major test of the new regime, as it attempts to break the grip of foreign domination. Large sections of the country have been ruled as virtual fiefdoms by foreign rubber and iron mining companies. Firestone Rubber holds rights to a million acre concession through the year 2025, where Liberians earn \$40 a month producing \$93 worth of rubber a day for the company, according to McLaughlin. "That's superexploitation," he remarked wryly. And much the same could be said of the iron mines, which account for 60 percent of the country's exports and where the companies "have their own security force, their own laws and their own schools -- with separate schools for whites (the children of foreign technicians) and Africans."

In the past, Tipoteh and MOJA have helped establish economic self-help projects for peasants--running night schools for market women and convincing 15 villages in the nation's poorest county to pool their resources and work one large cooperative farm. McLaughlin expects the new government to encourage further efforts along those lines, while moving cautiously in its dealing with the powerful multinationals. "The people in the government are progressive," he said, but it's a very fluid situation. What they have to do first of all is try to stabilize the situation, especially since they have the CIA all up and down Liberia. When they were kicked out of Ethiopia, they set up their main headquarters for Africa in Liberia. So the government will have to move very carefully."

But he does expect it to move. "When I came back, I told people to expect a major change in the next five years," McLaughlin concluded. "I had no idea it would happen so soon."

BUSINESS AND THE EXISTENTIAL, GESTALT ACID TEST:

UNION BUSTING COMES OF AGE

by Michelle Celarier

Liberation News Service

(Editor's note: In recent years, business publications have been full of stories about the declining percentage of the American working population that belongs to unions. And they've been just as full of sage explanations for this development--industry transplants to the "sunbelt," lackluster union drives in new plants, rapid growth of the "white collar proletariat" as opposed to the more unionized factory workforce. Another factor, which has only recently begun to receive media attention, has been the boom in new and sophisticated techniques for keeping or driving out unions. Not that old-fashioned union-busting has gone completely out of style, as J.P. Stevens regularly demonstrates. But where such tactics might prove counterproductive, management has turned increasingly to a new breed of union-busters--slick consultants who offer "rap sessions" and company T-shirts instead of goons armed with blackjacks. In the following article, LNS correspondent Michelle Celarier describes a two-day seminar offered by one such consultant which she attended in Seattle.)

SEATTLE (LNS) -- Self-proclaimed pioneer in "union avoidance" techniques, Dr. Charles Hughes rolled up his silk shirt sleeves in Seattle recently and went to work, telling 35 corporate personnel managers and small business owners they should try to create a workplace environment "so programmed the union can't even communicate." Said Hughes: "Get rid of the words 'worker,' 'foreman,' and 'grievance.' Those words smack of union mentality...Slowly erode the thought process until it changes."

Director of the Center for Values Research in Dallas, Hughes began his management consultant career with IBM and has gone on to help companies like DuPont, Rockwell International, General Electric and Honeywell keep the union wolf away from the door. Now he has taken his show on the road, joining the growing ranks of "have rap will travel" anti-union experts.

In seminars across the country, the bespectacled and pot-bellied psychologist offers his advice for \$250 a day to anyone who's interested. In Seattle, those attending ran the gamut from family-run warehouses and trucking companies to managers of formerly unionized lumber firms, new electronics industries and banking institutions.

At the beginning of his two-day seminar, Hughes decried organized labor's claims that he's a "union-buster," but said he doesn't argue with the unions' charge that his approach is a psychological one whose techniques are brainwashing and manipulation. Argument, after all, just isn't his style. In fact, his first bit of advice is to get rid of confrontation altogether, "that old-fashioned 1930s mentality" he calls it, which results in "the we-they gap" between management and labor.

SIDESTEPPING THE LAW TO BEAT THE UNIONS

"Being non-union," Hughes mockingly agreed with the unions who criticize him, "is a state of mind," one that any businessman with sense will cultivate. "The difference between union and non-union operations is the difference in night and day

in terms of mentality. There's a different set of assumptions. People are not adversaries."

Hughes also claimed non-union companies have higher productivity and larger profit margins, which is what most of his audience had apparently come to hear. Certainly the most common complaint among the seminar's participants was that unions would "break them" by higher wages, overtime pay and benefits. Between "third parties" like unions, regulatory agencies like the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the declining value of the dollar, they feared a grim future and seemed relieved that Hughes' "preventive maintenance" strategy might minimize at least one of their problems.

The growth of management firms who specialize in anti-union activities has been so rapid in recent years that the AFL-CIO has called for a congressional investigation into what they view as a threat to workers' rights to organize on the job. Organized labor estimates more than 1,000 firms and 1,500 individuals are part of what they say is a half billion dollar union-busting industry. When Dr. Hughes visited Seattle, he was trailed from hotel to hotel by union pickets who let him know that they, at least, could not be so easily avoided. Seattle is the only city in which such demonstrations have occurred.

While many of these firms do offer tips on how to beat the law, said Hughes, "this isn't one of them." Suggesting that unions are "crapping out," and citing declining union membership statistics to support that claim, Hughes advised beating the union on its own turf, by organizing the workers and by hiring "beautiful people who do what they are told to do when they are told to do it period." To that end, he suggested hiring Vietnamese boat people "who think they've died and gone to heaven. They'll love you."

According to Hughes, organizing is a simple job of getting there first with the message. Because of that, management has the upper hand to begin with. To best utilize it, said Hughes, first off one should offer orientation sessions with new workers in which the "benefits of a union-free environment" are touted. While it is illegal to threaten or discriminate against employees who express pro-union sentiments, said Hughes: "As long as it is simply a statement of the company's position that unions are unnecessary, no coercion or threat is involved and no action is taken against any individual or group of employees for acting in behalf of the union, there are no legal restrictions."

Rather than "beating the law," Hughes counseled understanding its subtleties well. Too many companies, he thinks, wait until employees are so dissatisfied that a union organizing drive is well underway. By then, it's probably too late. Warned Hughes: "Any company that gets a union deserves what it gets."

POP PSYCHOLOGY AND "BENEVOLENT PATERNALISM"

Hughes referred to his management techniques as "benevolent paternalism," and even proposed that management set up ad hoc committees of workers to give "advice" on particular problems. But he cautioned against elected committees which teach "union mentality," written grievance procedures which acknowledge conflict and create the means of its resolution, or any other procedures which would take the ultimate control out of management's hands.

To win allegiance to the company, a necessity is his strategy of total identification with management, he doesn't think it's necessary to pay good wages "as long as people perceive they're getting equity." Health insurance and sick leave may be necessary benefits. But a younger and less-security-conscious workforce, he said, will be just as happy with profit-sharing plans rather than the more expensive and long-term investment of pension programs. And if people complain about unsafe working conditions," he joked, "Just tell 'em Foundries are the pits. This is the best we can do."

More important, counseled Hughes, is having "rap session" to keep lines of communication open, admitting mistakes and walking around from time to time patting people on the back. He even suggested passing out company t-shirts to establish a corporate identity and holding Holy Roller meetings at lunch. "It might be the most meaningful thing that happens to them all day," conceded the PhD in management psychology who claimed job enrichment at factories is out of the question. "The machinery is set up," he said, "and no way in hell can we afford to change it."

With earlobe-length hair, a trimmed moustache and dressed in casual chic from his gold neck chain to his Yves St. Laurent sportscoat atop pleated pants, Dr. Hughes had a relaxed manner, all part of what he called an "extential" mode of management which can "relate to" a new generation of workers by such means as adopting their slang. "Right on!" he interjected repeatedly, as he talked about the peoples' love of comic books and the need for a weekly paycheck, "so they can go out and boggie."

PSYCH TESTS PREDICT PROBLEMS; WEED OUT "TROUBLE-MAKERS"

While the first day of his two-day, non-stop oratory was chockful of such downhome aphorisms and helpful hints, the second got down to more serious business--his "values systems analysis" survey of employee attitudes and a "values questionnaire."

For an extra fee, Hughes told the management representatives, his organization would send surveys to their factory or office. The answers, analyzed and returned in two weeks, would indicate employee dissatisfaction and predict possible organizing drives. The surveys, he said, "can raise a manager's level of understanding about how his people really feel, provided employees are given an opportunity to address management in a candid fashion. And, "although the issue is not resolved completely from the legal viewpoint," he said, "it's possible to ask direct questions, at least about sympathies to unions, under certain circumstances." What may turn out to be dangerous about the questionnaires, however, is the difficulty of insuring confidentiality. Hughes said it was necessary to narrow workers down to groups of four in order to address effectively any problems which are uncovered.

While the job attitudes survey is designed to get specific information about problems on the job, the "values questionnaire" measures more general attitudes an employee, or a prospective one, has about work. For example, in the first survey, one is asked to agree or disagree with such statements as "I am proud to work for the Company" and "I am paid fairly for the kind of work I do." In the second, one is given a choice between statements such as "I believe that big companies and their employees should be dedicated to the goal of maximizing pro-

fits because both 'win' when this goal is achieved," or "I believe that big companies make fat profits at the expense of most workers."

The results of the generalized values questionnaires categorize people into seven different personality types. And, if given to potential employees, Hughes said, they can weed out troublemakers before they are hired. The legality of that questionnaire has yet to be tested. Hughes added: "I'm just waiting for the EEOC to test it. My defense is that there's nothing more discriminatory than hiring someone for a job that's wrong for him."

SEVEN LEVELS OF BEING

The theory behind the questionnaire, according to him, is that "human beings exist at different levels of psychological development and these levels are expressed in their beliefs about work, pay, supervision and all other conditions of employment."

In ascending order towards higher consciousness, the seven types are: reactive, tribalistic, egocentric, conformist, manipulative, sociocentric and existential. People aren't equal, he says, they're different. But while his distinctions are based on personality traits or "values," the differences are economic. According to Hughes, most factory and blue-collar workers are the lower-level tribalists, white collar workers and midlevel managers are conformists, and stockbrokers and bank presidents are manipulative. The third lowest category, the egocentrics, is where Hughes places society's misfits and rabble rousers: blacks and union leaders. Anti-nuclear activists and others opposed to injustice are the sociocentrics.

But it is in the highest category, among the existentialists, that Hughes places himself. And when the seminar participants took the values questionnaire, they, too, mostly fell into that category. Said Hughes of the seventh stage: "When people reach this value system, they have crossed the bridge from animalism to humanism, from deficiency motivation to abundance motivation, from subsistence level systems to a being level system."

Printed on the back of the workbooks which are passed out with the \$500 seminar is the Fritz Perls gestalt prayer, the guiding philosophy of the existentialist and an early slogan of the human potential movement of the 1970s: "I do my thing, and you do your thing. I am not in this world to live up to your expectations and you are not in this world to live up to mine."

Hughes said existentialists are interested in ideas and knowledge above all else and that they "role play" but have no allegiance to corporations of ideologies. Such flexibility, he maintained, makes it possible for them to espouse two diametrically opposite points of view without internal conflict, which helps when it comes to "relating to" workers whose values are different from theirs.

Fortunately for capitalism, he thinks, the confrontation-prone wheeler-dealer manipulative personality is giving way in corporate circles to the new breed of existentialists who call workers and management alike by their first name, considering everyone "just people." To them, Hughes, tells it like it is: "There's enough power in the organizational structure. You don't have to go pounding people over the head with it."

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**AT WORK OR OUT OF WORK
BLACKS FACE WORST HEALTH HAZARDS**

(Editor's note: Every new scientific study of the effects of workplace chemicals, noise, heat and pressure underlines the stark lesson -- working can be hazardous to your health. Every new psychological study of the anxiety, tension and despair suffered by the chronically unemployed confirms that not working can be just as destructive. Now a growing number of surveys have coupled these lessons with the fact that Blacks remain this country's "last hired first fired" to prove that Black people suffer most from both occupational hazards and the crippling side-effects of unemployment.)

NEW YORK (LNS)-- "John David Thomas of the LeDroit Park-Shaw area of Northwest Washington is only 19 years old, but he suffers from constant headaches. As he talks, little veins in his neck and forehead start to swell and throb. The oldest of a widow's five children, he cannot find a job. Even on a chilly spring day, tiny drops of sweat dot his face. He says he has chest pains 'at least' once a day, and can't sleep for more than two or three hours a night."

John David Thomas, according to several experts quoted in a recent article in the Washington Post, suffers from an ailment that has reached epidemic proportions in D.C.'s Black community. He suffers from stress. And like many of his fellow victims in the Black community, experts say his problems can largely be traced to unemployment, to schools that left him illiterate, and ultimately, in the words of Black psychiatrist Dr. Frances C. Welsing, to racism. "When you talk about stress and Black people, racism is the number one critical factor that you need to be aware of," Welsing states matter-of-factly. "When money is tight and jobs are few, it is the nonwhite people who must bear the brunt of the added pressures which that causes."

For Black youths like John David Thomas, money is definitely tight and jobs few. "Pressure is most intense among young Black males from 16 to 25 years old," noted the Washington Post. "Unemployment for the age group hovers at nearly 50 percent."

And Dr. Reginald Locke, a Howard University counselor who conducts workshops on ways to cope with stress, links that grim statistic to a number of other, equally grim, indices of despair and tension--increasing drug and alcohol abuse; a higher rate of suicide, particularly among Black teen-aged males; increasing mental illness among Blacks; and the high pregnancy rate for Black teen-aged girls.

"Work is a vital part of life," Locke explains. "It gives people the feeling of being worthwhile. A denial of work, then, diminishes a person's sense of worth, and he loses a respect for himself and others. And a person who has been denied the opportunity to work is a person under stress."

Just ask J.D. Thomas. "I know that I have to get a job," he told Post reporter Janet Cooke. "It's the first and last thing I think of every day. My mother always asks me, 'Did you find anything?' I'm not sure she knows how hard it is, and I don't want to tell her. I feel like I'm nothing for my sisters to look up to either. Like a disgrace, you know?"

Like a worthless disgrace."

To Thomas, undoubtedly, another Black who can find a job, any job, should consider him or herself lucky. But a recent article published by the Berkeley, California-based Labor Occupational Health Project (LOHP) contends that "discriminatory employment practices, job placement, and adverse job conditions" expose many Blacks to another epidemic once they succeed in finding jobs--an epidemic measured by the fact that "compared to whites, Black workers have shorter life spans and suffer disproportionately from disease and disability due to their jobs."

"Of the six states with the lowest life expectancy rates," the article points out, "five have the highest percentage of minority (Black) workers--Georgia, Louisiana, South Carolina, Mississippi, and Washington, D.C."

Whether through the arbitrary mechanism of seniority or through deliberate discriminatory action, charges LOHP's Morris Davis, Blacks in many industries are systematically assigned to "the most dangerous, dirtiest and lowest paying jobs."

"Some industries purposefully employ Black workers at more hazardous jobs," Davis writes. "In the iron and steel foundries, Black workers are assigned to the furnaces on the assumption that they 'absorb heat better,' and the electronics industry rationalizes placing 'dark-skinned' minority workers in jobs which use caustic materials with the myth that skin irritations won't be so noticeable on dark skin."

Fully 91 percent of the Blacks who work in basic steel are assigned to the most dangerous process--coke plants. Along with transforming bituminous coal into the hotter-burning coke used at blast furnaces, these plants also produce dangerous gases and dust particles, including benzo (a) pyrene, which is known to cause lung cancer. "A 1971 study found that Black coke oven workers had three times more respiratory cancer, eight times more deaths from lung cancer, and a significantly increased death rate from 'all other causes' when compared to the general population," Davis states.

"These statistics may explain why the highest incidence of lung cancer for U.S. Black males is in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, center of the basic steel industry."

As another example, Davis cites the rubber industry, where "a nine-year mortality study of 7,000 rubber workers found that nearly 60 percent of Black rubber workers were employed in compounding and mixing areas." Workers in these areas are exposed to a number of cancer-causing chemicals and suffer increased death rates due to stomach, colon, bladder and prostate cancer. "Interestingly enough," Davis notes, "U.S. Blacks have the highest death rate due to prostate cancer in the world."

It's not only in factories that Blacks face increased job-related health hazards. Many Black professionals like Washington architect Robert Gordon show some of the same symptoms of stress exhibited by unemployed Black youths like J.D. Thomas. Gordon is overweight and has high blood pressure, early warning signals of the hypertension that afflicts Blacks far more often than whites.

Gordon attributes his tension partly to meeting deadlines in a "real pressure cooker" business...and partly to the effects of racism on and off the job. "The fact that you still have to put up with racism definitely is an added stress," he told the Washington Post. "The things you encounter run the whole gamut."

And the results can be lethal. For Blacks between the ages of 25 and 44, according to Davis of LOHP, "hypertension kills males 15 times more frequently than white males, and females 17 times more frequently than white females."

As with other ailments related to jobs or joblessness among Blacks, experts say individuals can find some relief but only an attack on the social roots of the problem offers any solution. "The majority of Black people know that they can do something about the pressure under which they live," observes Dr. Reginald Locke, "but they view what they can do as being very limited within the confines of this society."

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BLACKS

BLACKS IN RURAL GEORGIA BATTLE COPS AND KU KLUX KLAN

NEW YORK (LNS)--National Guard troops were sent into the small Georgia town of Wrightsville in mid-April after months of protests by Blacks demanding jobs and political representation erupted into a night of violent attacks by local deputies and the Ku Klux Klan. The violence broke out on April 8 as 75 Black demonstrators chanted for Johnson County Sheriff Rowland Attaway to come out and meet with them. Attaway did come out...and waded into the demonstrators followed by his deputies and some 100 other club and pistol-waving whites.

"Attaway and his deputies were calling the protesters 'niggers,'" reported Black State Representative David Lucas. "At one point, he huddled briefly with his chief deputy, then he led his deputies into the crowd. They were swinging their sticks and beating people over the head."

At least nine people were injured during the ensuing melee. Later that night, klansmen rode through the streets of the Black community, shooting into people's homes. Nobody was hit, but the klansmen themselves did not come away unscathed. Black residents shot one white man suspected of being involved in the unprovoked Klan attacks.

For the next two days and again on Saturday, April 12, Black demonstrators marched through the streets of Wrightsville, renewing their demands for jobs and justice. "Due to the presence of state troopers, there was no violence," reported the Rev. Fred Taylor of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), who took part in the protests. "But the atmosphere was very tense. We and the Klan were only about five to eight feet apart, them with their megaphone and us with ours, and the sounds all just clashing. But the extent of the violence was one white guy who tried to throw a cup of coffee on me but hit someone else who just walked by."

Taylor and SCLC national president Joseph Lowery had traveled to Wrightsville to join the protests organized by local SCLC leaders John Martin and the Rev. E.J. Wilson. And they plan to return, as Lowery told the crowd, to "march and sing until justice is done."

Black Wrightsville residents have already been marching and singing for months, "asking for a fair share of jobs in county government and the private sector," Taylor told LNS in a telephone interview. Although 45 percent of the town's 2,500 residents are Black, "There are no Black police officers in town. There are no Blacks in town or county government. And there are no Black tellers in either of the two banks."

"My daughter graduated from high school here and got a job up in Atlanta at the credit bureau," an elderly Black woman from Wrightsville said. "But when she came back here, she couldn't get a job at the bank or the post office or the court house or anywhere. There's just no good jobs for Blacks in this town."

But the protesters plan to change that. "The demonstrations will continue," Taylor promised. "Right now we're thinking of marching every Thursday and Saturday. We're also thinking in terms of organizing a massive voter registration drive in Johnson County and of coming up with a selective buying campaign. We don't plan a complete boycott of the town but picking out certain businesses. We are serving notice. We are changing this town from Whitesville to Rightsville."

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ANTI-NUCLEAR/FILMS

"WE ARE THE GUINEA PIGS": A DOCUMENTARY ON THREE MILE ISLAND

On the first anniversary of the Three Mile Island catastrophe a 90-minute documentary on the subject made by Parallel Films was screened in New York City. The title, We Are The Guinea Pigs, refers to the people of the Three Mile Island area. A very receptive crowd attended the screening of the film which was directed by Joan Harvey. It features a series of interviews with residents of the Middletown area, as well as with doctors, government officials, and scientists who explore the connection between private industry, government and the international arms race. Among those interviewed in the film are Dr. Helen Caldicott, author of Nuclear Madness; John W. Goffman, M.D., Co-Discoverer of Uranium 233; Dr. Michio Kaku, Professor of Physics at City University of New York; and Dr. Judith Johnsrud, Co-Director of the Environmental Coalition on Nuclear Power. Performer John Amato is also featured in the film, Amato is a songwriter and guitarist with The 4th Wall Repertory of New York City; in his music he likens the nuclear reactors of Three Mile Island to "gravestones for a dying nation", a theme which is carried out in the promotional material. (see photo)

Some of the most powerful moments in the documentary are during the interviews with residents of the area whose lives are the most directly effected by the leakage, and the real longterm dangers of the situation as revealed by the scientists who are interviewed. Previously unpublicized nuclear accidents and information are discussed in the interviews.

Dr. Daniel Pisello, Prof. of Physics at Fordham University was chosen to be interviewed for the film because he wrote the first article to appear about the production of the hydrogen bubble in the reactor at TMI, explaining what had taken place. Regarding "We Are The Guinea Pigs" he commented, "I want everyone in the world to see it. Education about this problem is what we need the most." He went on to say that the biggest problem resulting from nuclear energy has not yet been brought to the public's attention; that problem, Pisello said, is the storage of fuel rods, the spent fuel which is a by-product of nuclear energy. They must be stored in water which circulates continuously to prevent evaporation because the fuel rods contain high amounts of radioactive materials which are incendiary. If one of these storage pools loses water a fire would result and the gases given off by this fire would create "the worst possible disaster."

A documentary on Three Mile Island is more than timely and more than necessary; according to Robert K. more...

Musil, Education Director of the SANE Education Fund, "We Are The Guinea Pigs" excels anything currently available on nuclear issues." It has been accepted for presentation at the 1980 Sidney Film Festival in Australia.

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ANTI-NUCLEAR/RADIATION VICTIMS

RADIATION VICTIMS HOLD HEARINGS "SO THAT IT WILL NEVER, NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN"

NEW YORK (LNS)--They came from all across the United States--uranium miners and residents affected by radioactive "tailings," military veterans and southern Utah families exposed to fallout from atom bomb tests, workers and neighbors of civilian and military nuclear facilities, victims of harmful excessive medical x-rays. They came, 160 victims of radiation and their families, to participate in the four-day Citizens' Hearings for Radiation Victims in Washington April 11-14, to describe their experiences, and to demand that the federal government compensate for past damages and prevent future repetitions.

"The federal government response to the growing public concern over ionizing radiation is to delay any meaningful action and to call for more "studies," explained a statement issued by the organizers of the Hearings. "Radiation victims are not receiving recognition or compensation by responsible federal agencies. Outdated radiation exposure limits, particularly for nuclear workers, remain unchanged and poorly enforced. For these citizens, who justly feel betrayed by their government, the Hearings are the first major concerted effort to develop assistance on a national level."

Elizabeth Catalan, a resident of the Utah fallout area who testified at the Hearings, put it more simply and concisely. "We are concerned about the effect of radiation on our people, and want to tell the story of what has happened so that it will never, never be allowed to happen again."

Testimony from Elizabeth Catalan and the other victims was heard by a Citizens Commission Panel of scientists and community leaders, chaired by Everett Mendelsohn, professor of science history at Harvard. During a full day of hearings held in the Fellowship Hall of the First Congregational Church, the panel also heard from other scientists and medical experts who made it clear that the problem reaches far beyond the 160 victims who chose to participate.

According to the government itself, over 200,000 veterans alone were exposed to A-bomb tests at close range. And hundreds of thousands of other Americans have been exposed through uranium mining, milling and enrichment, fuel processing, weapons testing and assembly and power plant operations. Scientific witnesses such as Dr. Thomas Mancuso, Dr. Rosalie Bertell and Dr. Edward Martell argued that no safe level of radiation exposure exists and presented mounting evidence linking radiation to several forms of cancer as well as genetic defects and other illnesses.

Following the day of testimony, the hearings continued with a series of workshops devoted to resources, legal and medical assistance and planning for a nationally-coordinated grassroots movement for radiation victims. The hearings closed on Monday, April 14 with a press conference at which members of the Citizens' Commission Panel reported their initial findings, followed by a presentation

of the report to White House representative Frank White.

After that, the hearings came to an end, but with participants and sponsors such as the National Council of Churches, the International Association of Machinists and the National Association of Atomic Veterans vowing that their campaign had just begun. The panel will issue a report based on evidence presented during the hearings. And participants will work to push through Congress bills such as HR 7017 introduced by Rep. Robert W. Davis of Michigan. That bill would require the Sec. of Health, Education and Welfare to study whether there may be a relationship between exposure of members of the Armed Forces to nuclear radiation in Hiroshima and Nagasaki immediately after WWII and symptoms now suffered by some veterans. According to a study issued by Davis' office, "The VA continues to make a judgment that there is no relationship between the health symptoms of these groups of veterans and their presence in the blast areas 35 years ago (referring to 2000 Marines who were involved in clean-up operations after the A-bomb attacks in Japan)."

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LESBIANS/GAY MEN

U.S. MILITARY COOPERATION WITH ANITA BRYANT TV SHOW CHALLENGED

NEW YORK (LNS)-- Anita Bryant and the U.S. armed forces have both come under fire in the past as opponents of gay rights. But their cooperation on an evangelical TV show, although ostensibly unrelated to their shared antipathy for gays, has earned the Defense Department some new heat from lesbian and gay male activists.

Citing questions of "church-state separation" and "implicit government sanction of Bryant's anti-gay crusade," the National Gay Task Force has lodged a protest with President Jimmy Carter about the use of military facilities and personnel in the syndicated show, "Anita Bryant's Spectacular -- My Little Corner of the World." In particular, according to Tom Burrows at the NGTF offices in New York, the protest noted that "part of the show was filmed at West Point with the West Point Glee Club singing in the background, and General Westmoreland does an address in the middle of it."

So far, NGTF has received no response from the White House. But some recent comments from Anita Bryant herself indicate that the continuing protests have taken their toll. Claiming that her notoreity has cost her \$500,000 in television contracts, Bryant lamented that "all of a sudden, I had to start buying choice meat instead of prime."

Not that Bryant and her family are about to land in the poorhouse. In fact, according to the Washington Post, she, her husband, and their four children "still live in a sprawling Moorish mansion with tropical garden and swimming pool." And NGTF points out that in 1978 Anita Bryant Ministries raked in \$968,000 in donations, "and spent only \$150 on religious counseling, the alleged purpose for which it was incorporated."

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CONGRATULATIONS to the people of Zimbabwe, who celebrated their independence on April 18. Next week's packet will carry a related story.

BLACKS/PRISONERS

CALIFORNIA PRISONERS FACE THIRD TRIAL FOR MURDER OF PRISON GUARD

NEW YORK (LNS) -- Ernest Graham and Eugene Allen, two Black men charged with murder in the 1973 death of a white prison guard at Deuel Vocational Institution in Tracy, California, are due to begin their third trial on April 28th in San Francisco.

Graham and Allen are prison activists/organizers against the racist and inhuman conditions in prisons in California. Their supporters claim that they are being railroaded because of their stance of resistance to prison conditions and prison authorities. A representative of the Graham and Allen Defense Committee told LNS: "Graham and Allen, in spite of their incarceration, have continued to fight unwaveringly in the most dangerous arena of struggle in America. George Jackson did the same and was murdered."

Ernest Graham is 30 years old. He grew up in Louisiana and Watts, the major Black community in Los Angeles. As a teenager, he spent much time in juvenile detention camps. In 1969 he was sent to Soledad prison on an indeterminate sentence for a minor robbery. Graham says that soon after entering prison, his "idealism germinated into a broader context...As my eyes awakened to the actuality of the prison situation, I immediately commenced to working on trying to bring about a change in the criminal mentality of the young Blacks and to elevate their understanding to the ways of the struggle. By dedicating myself to this type of work, organizing the minds and bodies of other prisoners, I caused the administration to immediately single me out as being a troublemaker." After a series of transfers from prison to prison, Graham was sent to Deuel in August of 1973.

That was where Graham first met Eugene Allen. Now 27, Allen grew up in Merced, California, where he was raised by his aunt and uncle after his parents were killed when he was four years old. In 1972 Allen was arrested during a racial disturbance at his high school. He was convicted of two counts of firebombing and sent to the California Youth Authority. Following a racial disturbance at Preston Authority, Allen was convicted of first degree murder and sentenced to seven years to life. He was sent to Deuel Vocational Institute (DVI).

On November 27, 1973, a white prison guard was found dead at DVI. Graham and Allen were charged with violating California Penal Code 4500, which called for the mandatory death penalty for a prisoner serving a life term convicted of killing a non-prisoner.

The first trial took place in Stockton, California, 15 miles from Tracy. The local police and California Department of Correction's Deputies displayed shotguns, 357 magnums, M-16s and other automatic weapons in and outside of the courtroom, outside the courthouse, and on the tops of buildings nearby. At first the public was denied entrance to the courtroom during jury selection. Later, when supporters and spectators were admitted, they had to submit to strip searches and to come with picture identification. The case hinged on testimony from three other inmates, all of whom had received promises of early release in exchange for offering evi-

dence against Graham and Allen. But their sometimes contradictory allegations did not convince one Black woman on the jury. She refused to vote for conviction, and a mistrial was declared.

When a second trial was held in San Francisco in 1976, the prosecution did its best to guarantee a different outcome-- it excluded all 14 Black prospective jurors. The all-white jury convicted Graham and Allen under Penal Code 4500, and they were sentenced to death. But the prosecution's tactics backfired in February of 1979, when the California Supreme Court overturned the 1976 conviction, saying that the prosecution blatantly excluded all Black jurors, and therefore the conviction could not stand.

Undaunted, the State tried to haul the two prisoners back into court for the third time under Penal Code 4500 charges, only to have the State Court of Appeals declare 4500 unconstitutional because the U.S. Supreme Court has struck down such mandatory death sentences. So the State has fallen back on either first or second-degree murder charges, to be tried in front of the same judge who sentenced the two prison activists to death in 1976. Graham and Allen's supporters claim that the death penalty is still an issue in this case. They say that the prison guards have warned Graham and Allen that if they are not successful in sending them to the gas chamber, they would "have to go back to their traditional ways of eliminating Black people."

Defense Committee efforts include plans for a demonstration to free Graham and Allen in front of the Hall of Justice the morning of the first day of the trial, and an effort to fill the courtroom in support of Graham and Allen and against "this blatant violation of human rights."

For further information, contact the Graham and Allen Defense Committee, 3931 Opal Street, Oakland, California, (415) 561-9195.

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ANTI-NUCLEAR

BREEDER PROJECT TOUTS DIVINE PLAN FOR NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT

NEW YORK (LNS) -- For those whose confidence in the safety of nuclear power has been shaken by incidents of "human error" at Three Mile Island and other nuclear facilities, a public relations firm employed by the Clinch River Breeder Reactor project has come up with the ultimate reassurance -- "proof" that those fallible human engineers are just fulfilling a divine plan. In fact, according to "scientist and eminent theologian" Dr. William Pollard, author of the pamphlet Let's Talk About Theology and Nuclear Power, God not only approves of nuclear reactors but "has made more of these 'nuclear power plants' than he has anything else!" Pollard is apparently referring to stars with that remark, although he does not explain why humans should not be content to use these divinely created "nuclear plants" through solar energy rather than trying to improve on creation by building miniatures here on earth. Instead he insists that the discovery of fissionable materials just as the world faces a crisis of dwindling oil reserves is an instance of "perfect timing in the revelation of God's providence."

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ENVIRONMENT

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT SPRAYS PROTESTERS WITH TOXIC DEFOLIANT

NEW YORK (LNS)-- At least 13 people, including several local residents active in a fight against the federal Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) use of a defoliant containing 2,4-D and Atrazine, can now be numbered among the victims of the toxic chemicals. Twice during early April, Jacksonville, Oregon police confronted protesters who were camping out on BLM forests in order to block spraying of defoliants and ordered them to evacuate the premises. And twice, on April 1 and 16, members of the community-organized land vigil who refused to leave were sprayed with the herbicide many believe contains potentially lethal cancer-causing chemicals.

The protesters were members of the Applegate Occupation Team (AOT), a small group of farmers and residents who have peacefully occupied 200 acres of federally-owned timber land controlled by the Bureau of Land Management. BLM regularly sprays the forests to keep them clear of brush for private logging firms. AOT has publicized studies that reveal a high incidence of birth defects and increased cancer rates in communities where water is contaminated by the herbicide. Ruch, a nearby city with a population of about 50,000, is supplied with water from the Jacksonville valley.

Ron Cameron, one of those affected by the wind-swept defoliant, says his concern with 2,4-D dates back to his years in the military when he was exposed to Agent Orange, another defoliant which contains 2,4-D, and was used on the forests of Viet Nam. "All I ask is that the Environmental Protection Agency study the effects of Agent Orange on war veterans," Cameron explained. "Only now are we beginning to feel the full effects. And now it's contaminating our water supply. We're just not going to let it happen again."

Many of those participating in the vigil are already suffering from the first-wave of short-term illness. Symptoms include stomach cramps, nausea, and painful abrasion in the nasal passages. The cumulative effects are more severe. "I walked through woods where they sprayed," Cameron testified, "and the effect was similar to what we experienced in Viet Nam. Only every time I come into contact with it, it's worse. It's weakened any resistance I once had to viruses and colds."

Reporters from TV station KTVL and the Ashland Daily Tidings were among those who received dosages of the defoliant. As a result, several papers printed photographs of demonstrators, partially concealed by brush, as BLM helicopters hovered overhead spewing out defoliant from a height of no more than 75 or 80 feet.

Representatives from BLM don't deny the spraying, but insist that those present on the site could not be seen when the incidents occurred. When asked how the Bureau will deal with the occupation in the future, area director George Francis told LNS, "Well, we'll just have to depend on our law enforcement agencies."

The unconditional support for the BLM's policy demonstrated by local police has created a new bitterness among the occupiers and community. When

a deputy sheriff was approached by a number of residents about the spraying, he reportedly told them, "Go tell someone who cares." Ron Cameron said he feels "the Jacksonville sheriff, and the Bureau of Land Management, they're just the same. They're supposed to be serving and protecting the people. But, you know, they even sprayed the American flag."

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WOMEN/LABOR FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS OF WORKING PEOPLE ON TRIAL CLARA FRASER VS. CITY LIGHT

NEW YORK (LNS) -- Free speech, labor rights, feminism and socialism are on trial in Seattle, where a special city examiner and panel are hearing the first test of a clause in the local fair employment practices ordinance that bars job discrimination on the basis of political ideology. The case has pitted Clara Fraser, age 56, a long-time activist in socialist and feminist politics, against her former employer, Seattle's public utility company City Light. And it has also pitted two branches of city government against each other, with Fraser being represented by the Seattle Human Rights Department and City Light by the City Attorney's office.

By the time Hearing Examiner Sally Pasette issues a decision sometime in May, it will have been almost five years since the incident that sparked the dispute, Fraser's firing on July 11, 1975 for what City Light termed incompetence. Fraser insists her firing was just the culmination of months of harassment because of her sex and political ideology. And to prove the point, she has taken the unusual step of offering specific testimony about her political beliefs:

"I believe that the profit system is immoral, illegal, unwarranted and utterly destructive to civilization and to human progress," she told the hearing panel, "and that it has to be replaced with a human system of democracy in the economy as well as in political forms...I believe it is necessary for women to learn solidarity and to work together with labor and with ethnic groups and with gay people and with everybody who feels themselves especially mistreated under this system so that together there can be a consolidated movement for basic political change."

If testimony of this kind is extraordinary in personnel hearings, even more extraordinary is the fact that the person who is testifying to these political beliefs has won the support of such groups as the King County Labor Council AFL-CIO and the Hotel, Motel, Restaurant Employees & Bartenders Local 8 as well as the National Lawyers Guild and the United Feminist Front.

Fraser had been hired on June 4, 1973 to be City Light's first Education Coordinator. A few months later, she was assigned to organize the Electrical Trades Trainee (ETT) program, designed to bring women into the all-male trade. She was chosen for this task because of her experience as a feminist and civil rights leader, as an organizer and administrator, and as a professional developer of adult vocational projects for the disadvantaged. But these same qualities which initially made Fraser useful to City Light landed her in management's disfavor following a dramatic mass walkout by City Light employees in April of 1974, a year after she was hired. Although not herself a member of the union, Fraser became involved in the

dispute when members of Local 77 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers walked off the job on April 9, 1974, protesting the proposed suspension of two foremen who purportedly returned late from a coffee break. At first, the union asked Fraser to get its side of the story out to non-union workers at City Light, and later asked her to join the walkout; she did both. Fraser's role did not end with the agreement between the workers, the Mayor, Wes Uhlman, and Gordon Vickery, then head of City Light, that ended the walkout after 11 days. Instead she became even more deeply involved. As part of the agreement, City Light promised to negotiate an employee Bill of Rights and Responsibilities to replace a militaristic "Disciplinary Code" issued by City Light Superintendent Vickery a week before the walkout. At a mass meeting ending the strike, the dissident workers elected Fraser to their negotiating team, and the team, in turn, selected her as its chairperson, which made her the co-chair of the combined worker-management negotiating team; the team, in turn, selected her as its chairperson, which made her the co-chair of the combined worker-management negotiating committee. Another committee member who was head of City Light's labor relations-policy procedure at the time accused Fraser of being a Communist and suggested that she go back to Russia.

Fraser also participated in the Mayor Uhlman Recall Campaign, an offshoot of the walkout. She criticized management's elimination of planned affirmative action training, and its inadequate safety policies during hearings of a Public Review Committee to investigate City Light Superintendent Vickery's practices. She drew attention from the media and was publicly criticized by Vickery.

Many other City Light employees were highly visible leaders, but Fraser was also a known socialist, a 35-year participant in the antiwar, civil liberties, Black freedom and Native American movements. After 21 years in the Socialist Workers Party, she left it and helped to found the Freedom Socialist Party in 1966 and Radical Women in 1968. Fraser was clearly anathema to the anti-labor mayor and the City Light bosses. She became the target of constant harassment, which included circulation of her FBI files, of a hoax flyer purporting to describe her politics, and a crude sexist cartoon of her, as well as a specially contrived civil service exam to get rid of her, the secret elimination of her position from the budget and unwarranted reprimands. Ten days after the women trainees started, the managers curtailed their initial training, revamped the entire program and removed Fraser as program supervisor. Finally, on July 11, 1975, Clara Fraser was "laid off" without notice, which is illegal under the City Charter.

City Light contends that her job was eliminated as part of a staff cutback. But testimony at the hearing revealed that her position was retained under a different job title and at a higher salary and filled after she was fired.

The City's case is now built on "management's right to employee obedience and loyalty," and on what it alleges was Fraser's "abrasive, uncontrollable and incompetent" job performance. A socialist feminist, Fraser claims she was fired for her strong labor views, support of affirmative action programs and for her off-the-job affiliations with Radical Women and other activist groups.

Fraser's charges have been supported by the city's own exhaustive two-year investigation of her

complaint by the Human Rights Department. On Oct. 11, 1977 the Commission confirmed that her political rights had been intentionally violated by discrimination in the terms and conditions of her employment because of her sex and radical political beliefs, and in retaliation for her filing a complaint and for opposing Vickery's unfair employment practices.

For the next two and a half years, City Light attorneys used a steady stream of legal challenges and motions to prevent the case from coming to hearing. In July of 1979, all the involved parties--the Human Rights Dept., City Light, the City Attorney, and the Mayor's Office--agreed to a conciliated settlement of the case. But this was unexpectedly aborted by the City Council in a 6-2 vote last summer, with the majority insisting that the case be settled in hearing despite the enormous expenses involved. Testimony in the case so far suggests that the city may stand to lose a lot more than the \$21,000 appropriated for the Hearing Examiner and the attorney representing Fraser and the Human Rights Department. Fraser and her supporters have put the city's employment practices on trial.

During her testimony before the panel Fraser equated her experiences at City Light with the utility's treatment of all employees. She was seconded on that by several other employees who testified on her behalf. "It was a typical management device to circumvent required procedure and get rid of someone," said Robert Leighton, "City Light is a revenue-producing agency and did not need to cut back. Clara was not laid off; she was terminated." And witness Al McDougall, a journeyman cable splicer and another walkout leader, was equally emphatic: "(Until Clara) I never heard of anyone being laid off at City Light for incompetence...If you are incompetent at City Light, you are promoted to management!"

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INDIA

"ASSAM FOR THE ASSAMESE"-- PROTEST IN NORTHEAST INDIA

by Horace Worth
Liberation News Service

(Editor's note: India is a patchwork of different states, each with its distinctive language, history and culture. India is the land of hungry masses, of overpopulation, and of economic stagnation. India is the country of civil disobedience which, in 1947, ended the long night of British rule based on divide and conquer.

Yet, India is not at peace. It has been unable to create a common vision of unity out of at least 14 major linguistic and cultural entities. This absence of internal cohesion causes outbreaks of social unrest between Hindu and Moslem, between different Hindu castes and between different Indian subnations.

Today, communal hatred has broken out in Assam, India's most northeastern state; a state relatively underpopulated and rich in natural resources, particularly crude oil.

The trouble in Assam is caused by the rise to political prominence of Indians of different language and cultural backgrounds who came to Assam for work. The Assamese feel that they are being overwhelmed by "foreigners" (even though most foreigners come merely from a different part of India). Peaceful protest has turned to turmoil and may become armed resistance.

LIBERATION News Service

(#988) April 18, 1980 more...

Now, what the central government in New Delhi feared has happened; local loyalties threaten to outweigh national loyalty. In Manipur, Assam's neighbor, similar demonstrations against "foreigners" have broken out. This could spread all across the Indian subcontinent and imperil the stability of what Westerners know as the world's largest democracy.)

NEW YORK (LNS) -- Few Americans may know where Assam is. Those who are old enough to remember World War II may recall that Assam was the jumping-off point for the airferry which brought supplies to the beleaguered Chinese nationalist government and troops for their half-hearted resistance to Japan. Today, Assam is the scene of linguistic and cultural hatred which seems endemic to India. More than 80 people have been killed there and tens of thousands of demonstrators have been arrested during the last 10 months, since the All-Assam Student Union launched a campaign for disenfranchisement of foreigners--mainly Bangladeshi, Bengali and Nepalese. The tide of immigrants, the students say, is swamping their culture and depriving the Assamese of jobs.

To stifle greater hostility and violence against immigrant workers, the Indian Central Government in New Delhi has declared Assam a troubled area, suspended local self-government, and proposed to send in troops to assure law and order. But the authorities in Assam see the problem differently. They have petitioned the high court in Gauhati, the Assamese capital, to stay the government's declaration and the court has ruled temporarily in their favor.

This outbreak of violence and chauvinism among people traditionally portrayed as "gentle and friendly" can be traced to overlapping geographic, political and economic circumstances. Assam, India's most northeastern state, is a relatively under populated area, a land awaiting settlement and development on the borders of one of the world's most densely populated and impoverished regions. Its forests produce valuable hardwoods. Its valleys supply jute, rice, tea and bamboo cane. Assam grows sugar cane, mustard and oilseeds, short-stapled cotton, millet, potatoes and maize and is known for its hand-weaving and its raising of silkworms. It is richly endowed with coal, limestone and silumanite which is used in the glass furnaces of India and Europe. More importantly, it is rich in crude oil, meeting more than one-third of India's petroleum needs.

In the past, the Assamese who physically resemble their neighbors in Burma, Bhutan and Tibet, have welcomed small numbers of immigrants from other states on the Indian subcontinent--particularly the crowded and destitute West Bengal and Bangladesh--to labor in extensive tea plantations and to carry on the province's commerce. But today almost 50 percent of its 19 million people were not born in Assam. The newcomers, especially Bengali, came in several waves as the map of the Indian subcontinent changed: first, in 1947, when the British raj was carved into the separate, independent states of India and Pakistan; then in 1965 when these two countries fought a war over Kashmir; and finally in 1971, with the war that led to the creation of Bangladesh. (At the time of partition in 1947, the Bengali population found it-

self divided between the Indian province of West Bengal and what was then East Pakistan and is now Bangladesh. That is why some Bengali are Indians: citizens and others are not).

Officially, since 1971, more than five million "illegal residents without permit or passport" live in Assam. As conditions in Bangladesh deteriorate, the number of undocumented people continues to grow, much to the annoyance of the indigenous Assamese, who see their country becoming a dumping ground for Bengali from Bangladesh. What has sparked months of protest and violence is that Bengali politicians in Assam--who own land, hold government jobs and lucrative businesses--use Bangladeshi immigrants who have never taken out Indian citizenship to pad their voting constituency. As a result the 126-member Assamese State Assembly has become less and less Assamese.

Thus, the sense of being overwhelmed by outsiders fuels current protest in Assam, and feeds ethnic hatred. Since the majority of foreigners are Bengali, Bengali has come to mean outsider. "Indian dogs go home" is a common slogan, chanted or painted on walls. This feeling that "Bengalis" are taking over Assam has even led to the burning of Bengali villages.

Picket lines have crupped up everywhere, disrupting all phases of life in Assam. Schools and colleges are shut. Recent parliamentary elections were blocked. The state legislature has been suspended. The oil pipeline's flow to the rest of India is continually interrupted by pickets. The "Assam for the Assamese" movement has drawn women from their traditionally restrictive domestic duties to staff the picket lines. The unrest has also spawned a new, militant, right-wing political party "that claims to be the only one to represent the aspirations of the entire indigenous population of northeast India."

Political leaders outside Assam have called this movement "secessionist" but the Assamese deny the charge insisting they only want the refugees sent back to Bangladesh or settled in other Indian states, limiting their growing political, social and economic power in Assam.

In a society like India where life is still regulated by the iron laws of caste and privilege and the legacy of ethnic and communal conflict bequeathed by the British, the demonstrations against illegal Bengali immigrants and Bengali who hold Indian citizenship are of great concern to New Delhi. The last 10 months have shown that even the most gentle of people can talke to the streets when they feel their self-interest and dignity are at stake. In a sprawling nation like India which contains at least 14 major cultural and linguistic entities, the encroachment of one cultural group on another with all its attendant social disruptions threatens the delicate fibers of the Indian social web.

Further fueling New Delhi's concern, Assam, since independence, has been the theater of guerrilla warfare between several minorities and the central government. Only five years ago, the Indira Gandhi government was still fighting the Naga and Mizo people on Assam's Himalayan borders. New Delhi may well fear the reappearance of separatist movements in Assam and this fear may well have prompted its decision to send troops there immediately.

But dispatching troops will not resolve the underlying tensions, nor is the unrest likely to

cease until the Assamese are sure that they will not be swamped by the Bengali. That is why the Assamese high court blocks the imposition of martial law. For the presence of troops would mean that the Assamese, not the illegal Bangladeshi, would have to respect the law of force. The Assamese want a solution that favors them. Without such a solution, the tempo of protest will increase; the violence will grow; and the stability of an outlying state will tip toward open warfare which the Indian government will find difficult to suppress.

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PUERTO RICO

ELEVEN ARRESTED FALN SUSPECTS DEMAND STATUS OF P.O.W.'S

NEW YORK (LNS) -- It's been more than five years since the Fuerzas Armadas de Liberacion Nacional (FALN), an armed underground organization fighting for Puerto Rican independence, announced its existence with bomb blast outside five New York City banks. But until this April law enforcement authorities had recorded only one arrest and conviction related to FALN activities. And that one convicted FALN suspect escaped last May. Then, on April 5, police in the Chicago suburb of Evanston, Illinois scored a "breakthrough." Following up on a tip about "suspicious" activity by a group of joggers, they arrested five men and six women as suspected FALN members. Among them were Carlos Torres and Maria Haydee Torres, the only two people previously identified as possible leaders of the underground organization.

The first appearance of the 11 before a Cook County Circuit Court on April 7 offered ample evidence of the importance attached to the arrests, as bail was set at \$2 million each. But events at the arraignment proceedings also offered ample evidence of the difficulties authorities face in prosecuting the cases.

The 11 had to be forcibly carried into the court, chanting independence slogans that could also be heard from outside, where a band of demonstrators shouted "Drive the Yankees to the sea, Puerto Rico will be free." The relatively minor charges filed against 10 of the suspects reflected the scanty evidence the police and FBI have actually managed to accumulate. And the discrepancy between the charges (weapons possession and possession of stolen property) and the astronomical bail (\$2 million each) only served to underline the stance adopted by the 11 suspects -- that they are being charged for political crimes and demand status as prisoners of war in the fight for the independence of Puerto Rico.

"If this were a normal case, their bond would probably be \$2,000 or less," Michael Deutsch of the Chicago People's Law Office told LNS. "But because of the political nature of the case they're asking for \$2 million. Basically, they are accused of criminal offenses, but when it comes down to it they're accused of belonging to the FALN. So they're saying, if that's what we're charged with we should be treated as POW's."

According to Deutsch, that stand has won "a tremendous amount of support in the Latin community,"

particularly since some of those arrested "have been active in the independence movement in Chicago for a long time." More than 400 people turned out for an evening of solidarity the day after the arrests, and supporters packed the courtroom for the arraignment and are expected to do so again once the trials start. Demonstrators also turned out on short notice in support of Maria Haydee when she was flown in and arraigned on murder charges connected with the death of one person in a bombing at Mobil Oil headquarters last August. The trial date for that case has been set for May 19 and Marie Haydee "is definitely going to do a POW defense," according to New York attorney Elizabeth Fink.

Meanwhile, activists in the Puerto Rican independence movement are anticipating a wave of subpoenas from grand juries in both Chicago and New York. In the past, grand jury investigations aimed at developing evidence against the FALN have resulted in the jailing of Puerto Rican and Chicano activists on contempt charges after they refused to testify. "Supposedly a grand jury has been impaneled in Chicago," Deutsch reported, while in New York Fink said a prosecutor had informed people that a grand jury was already sitting before the arrests.

"What they're really looking for is an indictment for the Fraunces Tavern," Fink theorized, referring to a blast at a restaurant in New York's financial district that left four people dead on January 24, 1975. No suspects have ever been listed for that attack, although the FALN issued a communique taking responsibility for the bombing and explaining that it was in retaliation for the bombing of an independence meeting in Puerto Rico that killed two people.

If the recent arrests serve to focus increases attention on such instances of repression against independence forces in Puerto Rico, the police breakthrough could fuel efforts to force investigations of two recent incidents-- the suspicious death of Puerto Rican Socialist League leader Angel Rodriguez Cristobal in a Florida prison cell, and the police ambush that killed two young independence activists at Cerro Maravilla on July 25, 1978. And if that happens, speculated one pro-independence activist in New York, the FALN suspects' claim of POW status "could start making sense to a lot more people."

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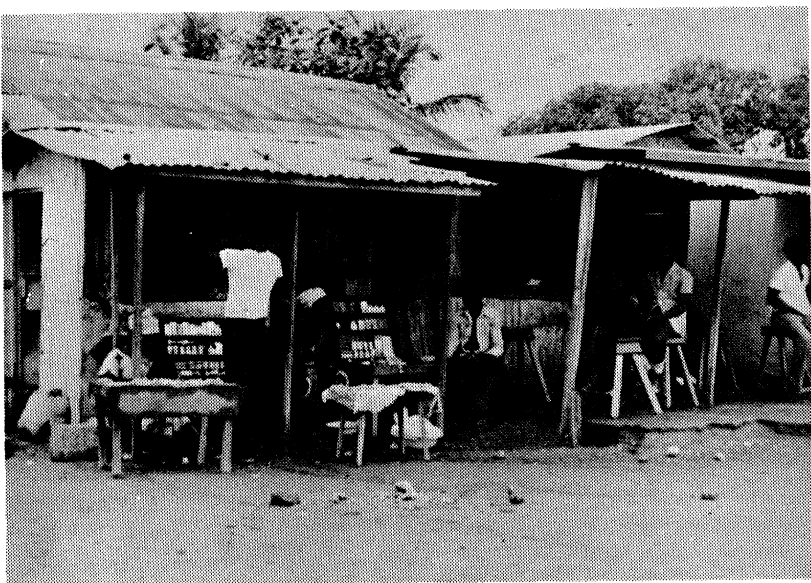
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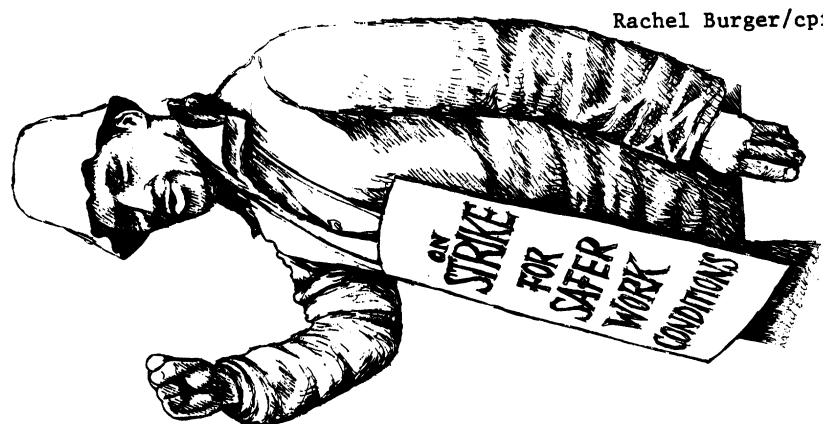
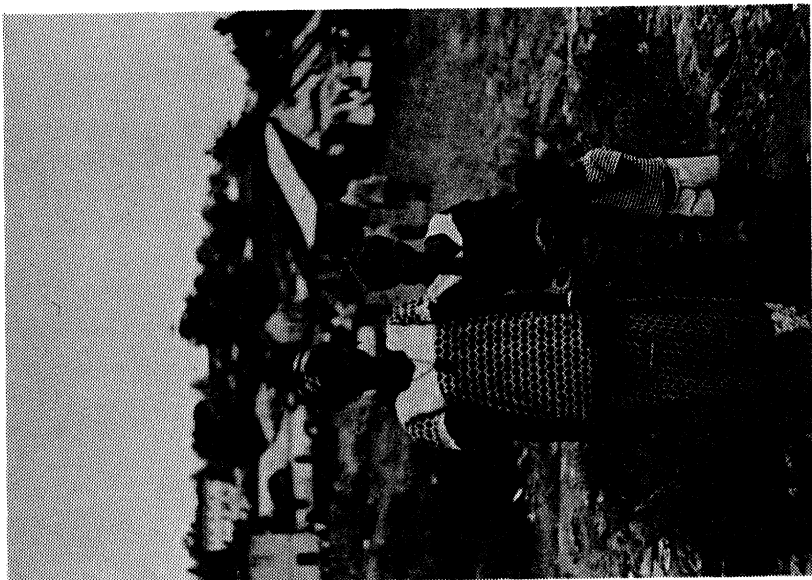
COUP BREAKS GRIP OF RULING ELITE

NEW YORK (LNS)-- Just five years ago, in 1975, an American official in the Liberian capital of Monrovia turned to a reporter and boasted, "Liberia is now as American as the Panama Canal." How times change. Five years later, the Panama Canal is well on its way to being Panamanian. And as of April 12, the small west African country of Liberia took a giant step in the same direction toward reclaiming that parcel of territory slightly larger than the state of Ohio for the two to three million people who live there.

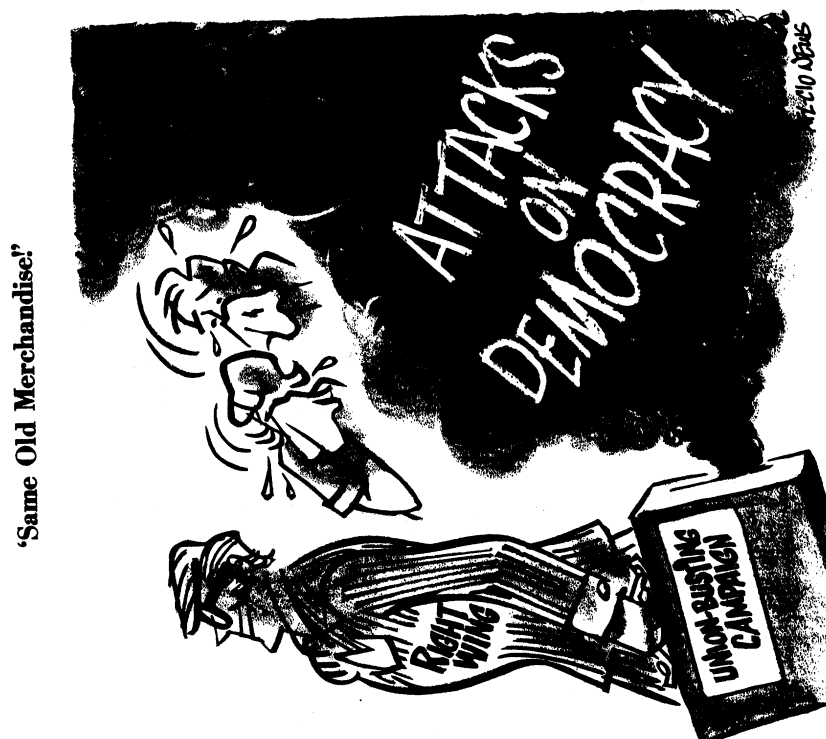
On that day, a small group of Liberian soldiers led by 28 year-old Master Sergeant Samuel Kanyon Doe stormed the presidential mansion and toppled the government of President (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)



Drawing by Bonnie Acker/WIN



Rachel Burger/cpf



'Same Old Merchandise!'

#988

UPPER RIGHT CREDIT: CPF/DAILY WORLD/LNS

SEE STORY PAGE 3

#988

A view of Three Mile Island, this photo is being used to promote the film "We Are the Guinea Pigs." For more information on this film, write to: Parallel Films
314 West 91 St.
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A market scene in Ganta, Liberia.

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Women and child in Monrovia, Liberia.

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